

EYEWEAR RETENTION SYSTEM

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This application is a continuation of United States Application Serial No. 09 585,593 filed June 2, 2000, ^{now U.S. Patent No. 6,325,507} entitled Eyewear Retention System Extending Across the Top of a Wearer's Head.

Background of the InventionField of the Invention

The present invention relates generally to an over the head retention system which avoids contact with the lateral sides of the head while retaining eyewear in the wearer's field of view, and/or which provides a platform for supporting any of a variety of portable electronic devices.

Description of the Related Art

A wide variety of improvements have been made in recent years in the eyewear field, particularly with respect to eyewear intended for use in active sports or as fashion sunglasses. For example, certain improvements have been incorporated into eyewear having a unitary lens, such as the Blades[®] design, (Oakley, Inc.) the M Frame[®] line, (Oakley, Inc.), and the Zero[®] line, also produced by Oakley, Inc. These eyewear designs accomplish a variety of functional advantages, such as maximizing interception of peripheral light, reducing optical distortion and increasing the wearer's comfort level, compared to previous active sport eyewear.

Lens geometry has also been the subject of a variety of innovations. The unitary lens of the Blades[®] eyewear incorporates the cylindrical geometry disclosed, for example, in U.S. Pat. No. 4,859,048, issued to Jannard. This geometry allows the lens to closely conform to the wearer's face and intercept light, wind, dust, etc. from directly in front of the wearer (anterior direction) and peripherally (lateral direction). See also U.S. Pat. No. 4,867,550 to Jannard (toroidal lens geometry).

More precise control over prismatic shift induced by rake (or pantoscopic tilt) and wrap and other optical objectives in dual lens eyeglass systems has been achieved through the technology disclosed, for example, in U.S. Pat Nos. 5,648,832; 5,689,323; 5,969,789; and 6,010,218, all to Houston, et. al.